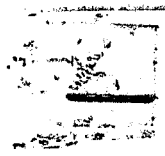

Department of State TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5189
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: KIM DAE JUNG MAKES SPEECH AT SEOUL YWCA

1. OPPOSITION LEADER KIM DAE JUNG DELIVERED A NINETY-MINUTE SPEECH THE EVENING OF MARCH 26 AT THE YWCA IN THE DOWNTOWN SEOUL MYONGDONG DISTRICT. WHILE GIVING A RELIGIOUS TONE TO THE SPEECH (KIM IS A CATHOLIC), HE CRITICIZED THOSE WHO CLAIM KOREA IS "NOT READY FOR DEMOCRACY" AS BEING IGNORANT OF KOREAN HISTORY, WHICH SHOWS THAT: "THE NATIONAL SPIRIT PURSUES DEMOCRACY WHICH GIVES FREEDOM AND EQUALITY TO ALL PEOPLE." KIM CRITICIZED FORMER PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE FOR HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS, CORRUPTION, AND ECONOMIC "FAILURES"; AND SAID CURRENT PRESIDENT KYU HAH CHOI "FAILS TO GRASP THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PARK'S OCTOBER 26 ASSASSINATION" BY CONTINUING THE YUSHIN SYSTEM.

2. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT THE CONTINUED NORTH KOREAN THREAT PREVENTS THE RELAXATION OF THE ROK'S ANTI-COMMUNIST AND SECURITY POSTURES, KIM ADDED THAT THE CONFLICT WITH THE NORTH IS "A POLITICAL WAR, NOT AN ARMED ONE" AND THE WAY TO DEAL WITH IT IS BY GIVING THE PEOPLE MORE FREEDOM. KIM SAID THE MILITARY MUST REMAIN POLITICALLY NEUTRAL AND
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THAT POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT USE THE MILITARY FOR THEIR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Temple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCISE

OWN PURPOSES, "AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST."

3. KIM APPARENTLY SUGGESTED THAT, WHILE HE HAS NOT YET MADE HIS FINAL DECISION ON A RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, HE WILL DO SO IN ACCORD WITH HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. KYODO QUOTES HIM AS SAYING: "IF GOD BIDS ME TO RUN IN THE ELECTION, I WILL DO SO EVEN IF ALL THE PEOPLE OPPOSE IT. BUT IF GOD BIDS ME NOT TO RUN, I WILL NOT DO SO EVEN IF ALL THE PEOPLE SUPPORT ME."

4. THE CROWD AT THE YWCA WAS ESTIMATED AT TEN THOUSAND PERSONS, WHO OVERFLOWED THE LECTURE HALL AND THE YWCA COMPOUND YARD INTO SURROUNDING STREETS AND THE ROOFTOPS OF NEARBY BUILDINGS. LOUDSPEAKERS WERE SET UP OUTSIDE FOR THEIR BENEFIT. THERE WERE NO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE. THE ROK PRESS GAVE VARYING AMOUNTS OF COVERAGE TO THE SPEECH, INCLUDING SOME WITH A PHOTO. THE TONGA ILBO ALSO RAN A FRONT-PAGE SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH'S HIGHLIGHTS, WHICH INCLUDED TWO PARAGRAPHS CENSORED OUT AND REPLACED WITH ADVERTISEMENTS. NO ARTICLES REFERRED TO KIM'S COMMENTS ON EITHER PARK CHUNG HEE OR KYU HAH CHOI.

5. [redacted]

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#5

GLEYSTEEN